--REMARKS --

In the Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Nguyen rejected pending claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,299,069 to *Shona* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,260,942 to *Muwafi* et al. The Applicant has thoroughly considered Examiner Nguyen's remarks concerning the patentability of claims 1-8 over *Shona* in view of *Muwafi*. The Applicant has also thoroughly read *Shona* and *Muwafi*. To warrant this 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 3,-5, 7 and 8, *Shona* and *Muwafi* in combination must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of independent claims 1 and 5. See, MPEP §2143. The Applicant respectfully traverses this §103(a) rejection of independent claims 1 and 5, because *Shona* and *Muwafi* in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest "a communication device [COM] communicating with an electronic module [MOD] intended to send <u>a convention signal</u> to the said microprocessor ", and "a hardware circuit [HARD] allowing inversion or no inversion of the order of bits of a word <u>as a function of the value of said convention signal during transfer of said word between the electronic module [MOD] and the microprocessor [PRC]</u>" as originally recited in independent claims 1 and 5.

Examiner Nguyen has correctly recognized the failure of *Muwafi* in disclosing, teaching or suggesting the aforementioned limitations of independent claims 1 and 5. Examiner Nguyen however has mistakenly read *Shona* as teaching the aforementioned limitations of independent claims 1 and 5. Specifically, *Shona* discloses an electronic module 1 that internally performs a highly secure authentication function. To this end, *Shona* teaches electronic module 1 having circuitry for internally performing the authentication function, where this circuitry includes an authentication data generator 17 having a bit-inverting circuit 136. Generator 17 performs a bit-inversion, if and only if, a loaded instruction begins with 0100 during a step S11 of an authentication process. See, *Shona* at column 7, lines 17-45. *Shona* fails to teach or suggest generator 17 performing the bit-inversion as a function of a contention signal being sent from electronic module 1 to a microprocessor.

The Applicant therefore respectfully requests a withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by *Shona* in view of *Muwafi*.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from independent claim 1. Therefore, dependent claims 3 and 4 include all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 1. It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that dependent claims 3 and 4 are allowable over *Shona* in view of *Muwafi* for at least the same reason as set forth with respect to independent claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 3 and 4 under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shona* in view of *Muwafi* is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 8 depend from independent claim 5. Therefore, dependent claims 7 and 8 include all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 5. It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that dependent claims 7 and 8 are allowable over *Shona* in view of *Muwafi* for at least the same reason as set forth with respect to independent claim 5. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 7 and 8 under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shona* in view of *Muwafi* is therefore respectfully requested.

The Applicant has added independent claim 9, which recites "a communication device [COM] for communicating <u>a contention signal</u> and a word to said hardware circuit [HARD] from one of a microprocessor [PRC] and an electronic module [MOD]", and "wherein said hardware circuit includes means for implementing one of a direct convention and an indirect convention of an order of bits of the word <u>as a function of a value of the convention signal</u>". The Applicant respectfully asserts that Shona, Muwafi, and the remaining art of record, in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest the aforementioned limitations of independent claim 9. Allowance of claim 9 is therefore respectfully requested.

SUMMARY

Examiner Nguyen's §103(a) rejection of claim 1, 3-5, 7 and 8 has been obviated by the above remarks concerning the patentability of claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 8 over *Shona* in view of *Muwafi*. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-8 as amended herein and claim 9 as added herein fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, Examiner Nguyen is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.
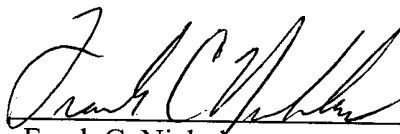
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